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Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I draw your attention to Armenia's further violation of international humanitarian law against the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Over the last days, along with intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces, Armenian armed forces have deliberately targeted the civilian population residing in the densely populated territories adjacent to the front line. Such reckless actions and provocations by Armenian armed forces have resulted in a large number of casualties, including among the civilian population. Substantial damage was inflicted on private and public property, including critical civilian infrastructure.

Armenia's actions constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto.

Information on further violations of international humanitarian law by Armenia in the context of intensification of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 2 April 2016 is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 40, 68 and 72, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information on further violations of international humanitarian law by Armenia in the context of intensification of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 2 April 2016

For more than two decades, Armenia has been using force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. It occupied 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territories and ethnically cleansed about 1 million Azerbaijanis from those areas. Armenia openly disregards Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), in which the Council reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Azerbaijani territories. During the period 1992-1994, Armenia committed numerous war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Starting from the early morning of 2 April 2016, Armenia has intensified its military activity in the conflict area, which has been accompanied by numerous acts of violation of international humanitarian law tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Armenia is conducting systematic, deliberate and targeted attacks on the non-combatant civilian population encompassing, inter alia, women and the elderly residing in the densely populated areas adjacent to the line of contact between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan. As a result of the attacks, 6 civilians, among them 2 children below 16 years, were killed and 24 civilians seriously wounded. Substantial damage was inflicted on private and public property, including civilian critical infrastructure. A total of 206 private houses, 69 electricity poles, two electrical substations and kilometres of water and gas pipelines were destroyed. Guided missile attacks were directed at social facilities, including schools, hospitals and places of worship. Instruction had to be suspended in the 28 damaged schools. One mosque was hit during prayer with high-calibre artillery shells (compiled information on the attacks is set out in the table below).

Armenia's actions represent a grave violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, as well as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. As a result of those deliberate attacks, a large number of civilians have been deprived of their basic rights to life, health, property, education, communication and practicing their religion.

Azerbaijan has taken appropriate measures to counter Armenia's use of force against its territorial integrity and sovereignty and to ensure the safety of the civilian population and property within its internationally recognized borders.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that the primary reason for the tension in the region is the unlawful presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The recent actions of the military dictatorship of Armenia, which is led by a group of war criminals, represent a serious challenge to international peace and security and the values for which the civilized world stands. The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to condemn Armenia for its blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Azerbaijan will spare no efforts to ensure peace and justice in the region.

Information on the consequences of the armed attacks by Armenia against civilian population and infrastructure of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2 April 2016

(Updated on 5 April 2016)

No.	Description	Area					Total
		Aghdam	Tartar	Goranboy	Fuzuli	Aghjabadi	
1.	Bombarded settlements	16	9	3	1	3	32
2.	Killed civilians	1	3	–	–	–	6
3.	Wounded and injured civilians	9	4	8	1	2	24
4.	Damaged buildings, including:	42	160	38	–	–	271
	– Private residential houses, of which:	18	157	31	–	–	206
	– Completely destroyed houses	–	17	20	–	–	37
	– Burned houses	7	–	–	–	–	7
	– Non-residential buildings	1 building belonging to a business and 1 public building	–	2 buildings belonging to businesses	–	–	4, including: – 3 buildings belonging to businesses – 1 public building
	– Schools	2	8	20	–	–	30
	– Mosque	1	–	–	–	–	1
	– Other types of buildings	22	3	5	–	–	30
5.	Perished cattle	83	28	60	–	–	171
6.	Affected sown areas (hectares)	–	236	–	–	–	236
7.	Destroyed civilian critical infrastructure, including:						74
	– Electricity supply infrastructure	30 electricity poles	39 electricity poles, 2 power substations	–	–	–	69 electricity poles, 2 power substations
	– Water supply infrastructure	–	2 reservoirs	–	–	–	2 reservoirs
	– Gas supply infrastructure	–	2 km pipeline	–	–	–	2 km pipeline

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